

# Reynold's 'courtroom' is battle field

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Even in combat, sometimes having a lawyer handy is nice.

When international relations could hang in the bal-

ance during a mission of a special operations unit, they can call for legal decisions.

Luckily for most units, special operations judge advocates are a part of the team for those occasions when they need quick answers in sticky situations.

Jeff Reynolds of the 377th Air Base Wing Judge Advocate office is one such attorney who is trained to plan and operate with special forces, giving them legal guidance on the nuances of the law of armed conflict and other international laws.

A civil service attorney specializing in environmental law for the 377th Air Base Wing, Reynolds also is a major in the Reserves.

In March he deployed for six months to Special Operations Command in Europe. He worked as a team member, giving vital legal advice to those planning and executing special operations combat missions.

Reynolds describes a hypothetical situation in which his expertise would be needed as one in which a sniper

thinks his position has been compromised and the individual who saw him making a phone call.

"Is the guy blowing our whole mission, calling for reinforcements or is he on the phone with his grandmother?" Reynolds said.

Weeks or months of planning and maneuvering to get to that point are at stake, and a firm grasp of the law as it applies to that situation is indispensable to the person behind the weapon.

Understanding the law and planning the mission with consideration to all the factors involved is one of the aspects of special operations that makes that line of work so challenging. In any war, enemy combatants are the only targets. Hitting inno-

cent civilians must be avoided.

"Before they're putting a round down range, they're looking at what's behind the target," says Reynolds. "No one wants to go home with blood on their hands."

While assigned to SOCEUR, Reynolds worked closely with the special forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Reynolds calls the joint perspective of his deployed missions the most incredible part of the job.

"It was demanding academically from the perspective that I had to understand naval warfare doctrine, as well as Army and Air Force doctrine, and how all of that comes together to project our forces forward and execute a mission. That was exciting stuff."

Reynolds' deployment supported missions in Africa, Eastern Europe and parts of the Middle East, but he's no stranger to foreign lands. As a teenager, he took up rock and ice climbing and mountaineering, and has since turned semi-professional, with expeditions to South America, Asia, Europe and Africa.

His skill at climbing turned out to be especially useful on some of his missions for SOCEUR.

"You've got to be ready for everything when you're working with special ops," said Reynolds.

Reynolds' background was especially well-suited for the assignment to special operations. While stationed at Bolling AFB, he worked as a White House aide, giving him the necessary clearance he needed. In addition to having foreign language proficiency, he was also attached to a psychological operations unit when he served as an enlisted soldier in the Army.

What he didn't pick up before going to SOCEUR, he acquired once he was there, through extensive training in Stuttgart, Germany. Before deploying down range in support of any mission, Reynolds trained on various types of small arms weapons, "fast-roping," field first aid, climbing and various skills at a special operations training facility in Stuttgart.

"I wasn't one of the front line operatives, but we were all trained in those skills in case we needed them."

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## Delivering Christmas cookies



Photo by Dennis Carlson

Members of the Boys and Girls Club youth and school-aged programs whipped up batches of cookies, fudge and brownies Christmas week and delivered the goodies around the base. Recipients included the Command Post, the 377th Support Group and 377th Services Squadron headquarters. Also receiving the goodies were security forces members braving the cold at the Wyoming and Gibson gates. Making and delivering holiday goodies is a popular annual project for the young members of the Boys and Girls Club.

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Reynolds plans to temporarily doff his combat hat soon, though, and don his academic one.

He was recently selected for a fellowship to the prestigious think tank, the Rand Corporation.

Only one Air Force civilian is chosen for the Rand fellowship every year, and competition is extremely fierce. Reynolds is genuinely humble in talking about the honor, though.

"I thought they made a mistake, really. I applied years before I thought I would be eligible."

Evidently someone making those decisions thinks a combat lawyer would be pretty good to have around, too.